

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the specification as follows (a marked-up copy of changes is found in the Appendix of the present amendment):

Please replace the second full paragraph of page 7 with the following new paragraph:

The impingement of the atomization gas annulus onto the this annular film of liquid in the version of FIG. 2 provides improved droplet formation. The droplets are formed by using the atomization gas annulus to pull droplets off the edge of the expanding conical surface at the forward end **70** of the first annular channel **60**. By both thinning the liquid and increasing the amount of surface area per unit volume of liquid for interaction with the atomization gas, the efficiency of atomization is improved. This allows for smaller droplet sizes to be created using less atomization gas. The thickness of the thin film allows for the formation of desired droplets. In one version, the thin film is less than 0.51 mm (0.020 in), more preferably less than 0.1 mm (0.005 in), more preferably less than 0.05 mm (0.002 in), and most preferably about 0.03 mm (0.001 in). It has also been determined that by forming the thin film by nature of the shape of the channel and then impinging the thin film with a gas, the size distribution of the droplets formed is within a narrower range and is more controllable.

[This Space Intentionally Left Blank.]